



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

House of Representatives

HONORING ELWOOD A.D. “WOODY” LECHAUSSE

HON. JOSEPH D. COURTNEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Elwood A.D. “Woody” Lechausse of Enfield, Connecticut, who passed away over the weekend at the West Haven VA Medical Center.

For nearly 35 years, Connecticut veterans could rely on Woody to be their staunchest advocate in the state house and here in Congress. A veteran himself, Woody served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1965, during which he served as a Sergeant in Izmir, Turkey, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne Division, and Quin Huon, South Vietnam with the 178th Signal (Spt) 39th Signal Battalion. He returned home to Connecticut and, fueled with his desire to improve the lives of all those who have served our nation, began a long and storied career as a rigorous and unyielding voice for improving our nation’s treatment of our veterans.

As a member of several veterans service organizations, such as the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 82nd Airborne Division Association and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 120, Woody served in countless leadership roles on both the state and national levels. Although a fighter on behalf of all those who wore our nation’s uniform, Woody was especially dedicated to addressing the difficulties faced by our disabled veterans and those who returned home with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges from their combat experience.

Woody served on numerous government agencies, boards and taskforces that helped make tangible improvements in the health care, support and commemoration of all our veterans. And for his work, he was continually honored at all levels, most recently by being permanently inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007.

I was honored to meet with Woody on numerous occasions both in Washington and Connecticut, and work with him closely on efforts to improve the quality of life for veterans in Connecticut and across the nation. He was a trusted advisor to the members and staff of Connecticut’s congressional delegation, and could always be relied on to help

inform us of the needs of our veterans and help “get the word out” through his dialogue with veterans organizations and updates to his diverse and wide-ranging email list.

Madam Speaker, all of us in Connecticut have lost a friend, a mentor and an unmatched voice on behalf of our veterans. I ask all my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolence to Woody’s wife Kathryn, his sons James and Ralph, and all his friends and families during this difficult time. And, I urge all my colleagues to honor Woody’s service to our nation and lifetime of advocacy on behalf of our nation’s veterans.